Admission in PG medical courses

†2063. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give preference to the doctors working in the rural areas for admission in the PG courses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to give preference to Doctors working in Rural Areas for admission in the PG Courses.

Polio cases in Karnataka

2064. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether polio has shown its ugly face in Karnataka once again; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to eradicate it in Karnataka in particular and in other States in general?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) After remaining polio free for two years Karnataka has reported 31 cases during 2003 from the month of May till date.

(b) In order to break the chain of transmission 3 mop-up round were undertaken in 11 affected districts during the month of July, September and November 2003.

Additional initiative taken during later part of 2002 and early 2003, has resulted in decline of polio cases from 1600 reported during 2002 to 2004 during 2003 till date. An Experts Team after reviewing the data have concluded that the polio transmission during 2003 has been lowest ever achieved before and had recommended for five Nationwide Pulse

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Polio Immunization round in the month of January, February, April, September-November 2004 and one additional immunization round (Sub National Immunization Day round) in the month of May 04 in the areas with continued polio transmission.

Efforts are constantly being made to improve the quality of immunization campaign in all States including Karnataka through better micro planning, training, supervision, social mobilization and monitoring in order to reach all children under the age of 5 years through these campaigns.

The surveillance system to detect the circulation on wild polio virus in the State of Karnataka is supported through network of Surveillance Medical Officers of National Polio Surveillance Project. The Surveillance Medical Officer provides technical and logistic support to the government system to ensure detection of wild polio virus circulation anywhere in the State.

Efforts are on to strengthening routine immunization in the State to ensure that all infants receive polio drops as a part of routine immunization in addition to the doses that they have received during the campaign.

Eradication of leprosy

2065. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of the world's leprosy patients are in India;

(b) if so, the extent of prevalence of the disease, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country is lagging behind in containing the prevalence of leprosy;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the international assistance available for eradication of leprosy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.